TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 20, 1987 -- Freight traffic carried on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 15 totaled an estimated 19.0 billion ton-miles, 9.3 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 33 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 570.2 billion ton-miles carried, up 3.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended August 15 totaled 417,389, up 8.5 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 4.4 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 6.7 percent in the East and up 10.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 17 of the 21 major commodity groups increased. Grain showed a gain of 6,143 cars loaded (26.1 percent) and coal increased by 4,402 cars (3.7 percent). Fifteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 8 totaled 100,161 trailers and/or containers, 2.5 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 32 weeks of the year was 3,096,836 trailers and/or containers, up 3.5 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/15/87:

	Loadings in Week ended August 15, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,690	I	6,143	26.1	D	51	0.2
Other farm products	2,702	D	332	10.9	D	115	4.1
Metallic ores	16,423	I	1,571	10.6	I	3,118	23.4
Coal	122,806	I	4,402	3.7	I	9,606	8.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	18,360	I	3,556	24.0	I	902	5.2
Nonmetallic minerals	9,957	I	653	7.0	D	244	2.4
Grain mill products	10,790	I	465	4.5	I	326	3.1
Food and kindred products	11,064	I	14	0.1	I	69	0.6
Primary forest products	10,590	I	672	6.8	I	117	1.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,990	I	195	2.5	I	298	3.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,292	D	322	2.6	D	126	1.0
Chemicals and allied products	26,775	I	2,098	8.5	I	794	3.1
Petroleum products	5,377	I	392	7.9	I	488	10.0
Stone, clay and glass products	11,079	I	638	6.1	D	198	1.8
Coke	5,152	I	1,576	44.1	I	138	2.8
Metals and products	9,367	I	2,021	27.5	I	170	1.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	15,372	D	1,615	9.5	I	877	6.1
Waste and scrap materials	8,857	I	972	12.3	I	360	4.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,994	D	194	6.1	D	77	2.5
All other carloads	79,658	I	9,816	14.1	I	1,238	1.6
LCL traffic	94	I	13	16.0	I	11	13.3
Total Cars Loaded	417,389	I	32,734	8.5	I	17,701	4.4
Corresponding week of 1986	384,655						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (33 weeks)	12,747,338	12,365,161	I 3.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
32 Weeks ended August 8	551.2	532.5	I 3.5
Week ended August 15	19.0	17.4	I 9.3
33 Weeks cumulative	570.2	549.9	I 3.7

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